

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 327

By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Presiding Bishop
Charles E. Blake, Sr., upon his re-election as
Bishop.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., who was recently re-elected as Presiding Bishop over the Church of God in Christ Inc. (COGIC), is one such servant of the Lord; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Blake is the seventh Chief Apostle of the COGIC denomination, an international philanthropist, and a national icon; aside from leading the fourth largest Pentecostal denomination in the United States, which includes 6.5 million followers, he also serves as Head Pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, with an immense membership of 25,000, West Angeles has been recognized as one of the fastest growing churches in the nation, with extensive ministry and outreach services that include television and radio broadcasts; and

WHEREAS, the church also offers more than eighty programs that are designed to better the psychological, social, and economic enhancement of the community; and

WHEREAS, a philanthropic leader in his own community and around the world, Bishop Charles Blake founded Save Africa's Children in 2001, a program under the umbrella of the Pan African Children's Fund that has assisted with more than 400 grassroots and faith-based projects in Sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS, as founder and CEO of the organization, Bishop Blake assiduously oversees the support of more than 200,000 children throughout more than 23 African nations; one of his main goals for the program is that it will be used to spread awareness that ninety percent of children orphaned by AIDS globally live in Sub-Saharan Africa; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his extensive leadership with West Angeles Church of God in Christ and Save Africa's Children, Bishop Blake also stands as Chairman of the Board of Directors of COGIC Charities Inc., a non-profit organization founded by the late Bishop G. E. Patterson that raises millions of dollars for scholarships, disaster funds, and community relief programs in the United States and all over the world; and

WHEREAS, because of his astute leadership in the faith-based community, Bishop Blake emerged as a significant figure for many during the 2008 Presidential election, when he became one of only four highly-regarded religious leaders to serve as a featured speaker at the first Democratic National Convention interfaith gathering in Denver, Colorado; and

WHEREAS, he used this national platform to proclaim his pro-life Democrat status and to plead with then Senator Barack Obama to uphold his promise to reduce abortions and ensure viable alternatives; since the National Convention, Bishop Blake has addressed President Obama again on this issue and is confident that new legislature will emerge to be a voice for the unborn; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., and his re-election, the supporters, members, and leaders of COGIC will host the *Glorious Inaugural Celebration Dinner* at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis on Wednesday, April 15, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Blake is a humble and faith-filled servant of the Lord who consistently seeks God's will and embraces that will in his daily decisions and in his assisting of others; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader over millions of people and as a humble servant of God, Bishop Blake has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, his congregation, and the international community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., upon being re-elected as Bishop of the Church of God in Christ during the 2008 Quadrennial election at the 101st Holy Convocation in Memphis, thank him for his many years of honorable service and spiritual inspiration to the people of Tennessee, and wish him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.